

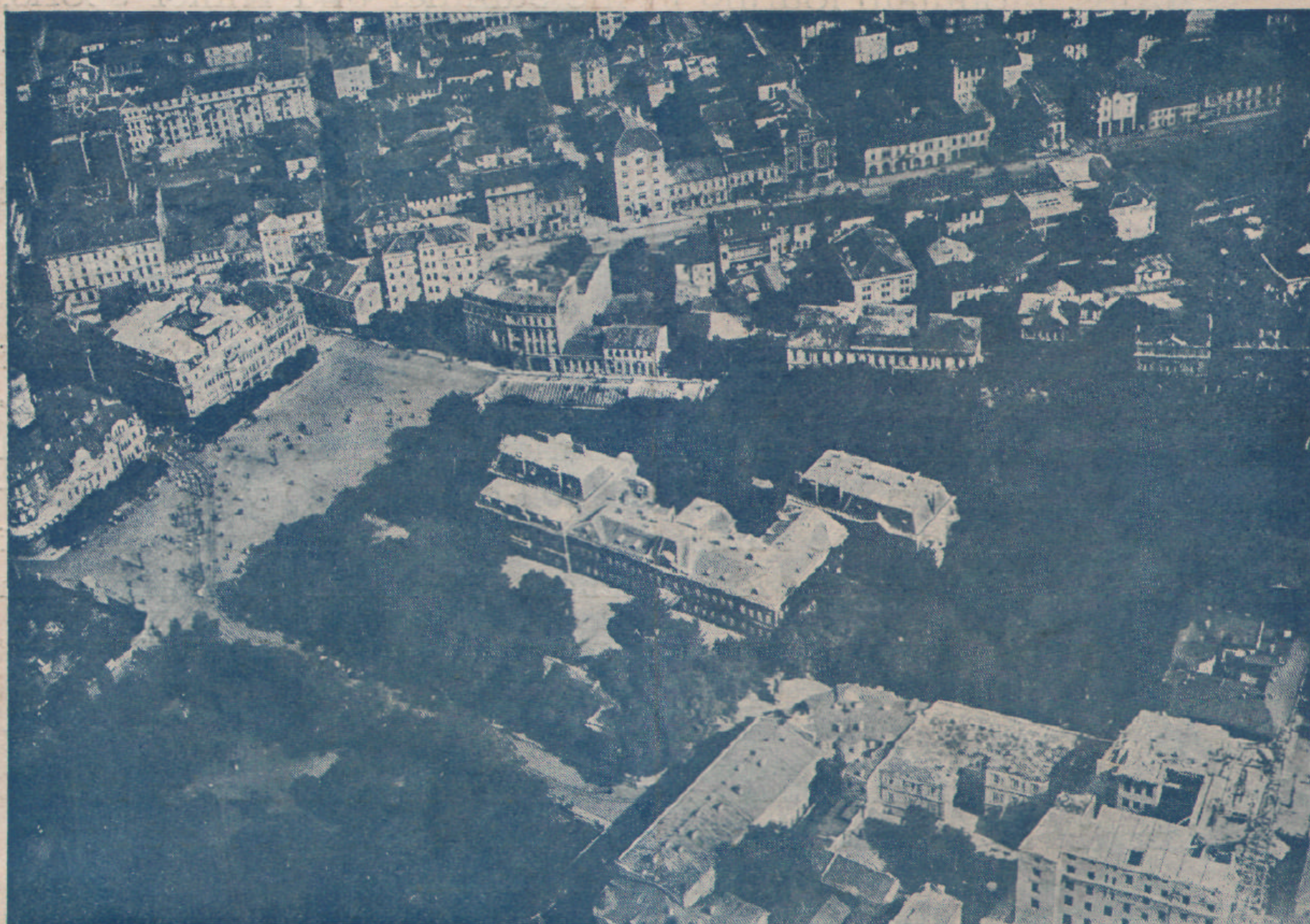
BULGARIAN BRITISH REVIEW

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and Commercial
Questions of interest between Bulgaria and Great Britain

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УПРАВИТЕЛНИЯТЪ СЪВЕТЪ НА
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The Tourist and Health Resorts in Bulgaria

Continuous Sunshine

Gorgeous Scenery.

Mineral and Thermal Springs

Nature has given to Bulgaria not only the riches which lie hidden under the earth but almost everything which the hand of the Great Designer could give above the ground, picturesque mountain ranges, on which are numerous small lakes, with enchanting water falls flowing into winding rivers and rippling streams which skirt the foothills, and their slopes covered in rich forests; mineral and thermal springs which abound in almost every District in South Bulgaria; during 7 months of the year a semi-tropical climate with almost continuous sunshine for 10 hours a day, and an



Tourist hut „Fonfon“ on Mount Vitosha.

exhilarating atmosphere during the night which cannot be equalled in many semi-tropical countries. On the eastern frontier which skirts the shores of the Black Sea the hand of nature was most generous, providing sandy beaches, undulating hills sweeping towards the sea covered in forest lands, well defined inlets and picturesque scenery. This pen picture briefly describes Bulgaria.

The physeography of the country presents a combination of mountain chains encircling broad and fertile valleys.

Structurally four well defined sections may be noted. The table land from the north starting from the river Danube, the long chain of Balkan mountains extending west to east, the entire length of the country, the high and elevated mass of the Rilo and Rhodope mountains in the south and elevated plains between these two great parallel mountain systems.

The fourth range is the wild and rugged Pirin.

The Balkan mountains, or Stara Planina as they are usually called in Bulgaria, extend from the Timok River in the west to the Black Sea on the east, a length of 375 miles, the average width being about 20 miles. These ranges have neither abrupt projections nor rocky peaks, but many rounded domes which, for the most part, are the remains of ancient volcanic cones. The northern slopes of the Balkans present a succession of terraces, which are so gentle that one may approach the crest from the River Danube without coming in sight of mountains. The southern slopes, on the other hand, are very abrupt, rugged, with numerous narrow and tortuous defiles. The western Stara Planina range is flanked north-south along its entire length by parallel lines of peaks

abruptly cut into rough or rugged slopes. It is the most rugged part of the Balkans and is extremely difficult of access. This section has only two passes — the Sveti Nicola (3,916 feet above sea level) through which leads the highway between Lom Palanka and the Danube regions to the Nich Valley in Serbia, and the Ginci Pass (4,737 feet above sea level). The central part of this range has also a number of peaks north of the main ridge, several of which are most difficult to approach. What is known as the Araba Konak is 3,200 feet, the Shipka Pass 4,300 feet; the highest peak, known as Yumrukchal is 7,790 feet above sea level.

The eastern section of the Stara Planina is composed of broken ridges which gradually merge into the coast plains towards the shores of the Black Sea. South of the Stara Planina and extending parallel with it, is the mountain range called Sredna Gora.

The western section of the Stara Planina range is connected with the Rilo Mountains by the Verila and Vitosha range of mountains. Southern Bulgaria is crossed by the Great Rhodope mountains. They present a central mass with various branches stretching out in all directions and with huge cliffs cut by deep valleys. The jagged summits of the Rilo mountains contrast strikingly with the rounded summits of the Balkans. They have much of the character of the Swiss Alps. The Rilo mountains are the highest in Bulgaria. They contain the loftiest peak in the Balkan Peninsula. — Mount Mussala, whose altitude is 9,588 feet. The highest peak on the Rhodopes is 8,747 feet above sea level. The chief beauties of these mountain ranges consist of the pineclad summits and slopes, and the picturesque upland valleys. A part of the southeast section of the Rhodopes contains one of the most beautiful pieces of alpine scenery to be



View of „Mussala“ Rilo mountain.

witnessed in any part of the world. The most elevated and rugged part of the Rhodopes is in the west, the slopes of which are covered with rich forests. The alpinach panoramic views to be obtained from the peaks of these four mountain ranges, no camera could reproduce. All are within reach by either railway or motor car services. The Bulgarian Tourist Federation have during the last two years done much [useful work in mapping out tours to these several ranges and

the erection of huts with cooking and sleeping arrangements for tourists.

Rivers.

The largest river in Bulgaria is the Maritza which drains the great valley between the Balkans and the Rhodope mountains. It is 329 miles long and its basin has an area of 20,790 square miles. It takes its rise in the Rilo ranges and flows south east to the Aegean Sea. Its tributaries which flow from the Rhodope and



Tourist Hut „Dimir Kapia“ in Rila Mountain.

Stara Planina ranges are swift and deep during the rainy season in the winter and spring, but practically dry during the summer and autumn. The two largest tributaries of the Maritza are the Tundja from the Stara Planina and the Arda from the Rhodopes. There are a number of smaller rivers which eventually empty into the larger rivers referred to above. No large lakes are to be found in Bulgaria although on the higher slopes of the Rilo and Rhodope Mountains there are over 100 small lakelets.

The flora of Bulgaria, especially in the mountain ranges is both rich and varied — crocuses, alpine Rose orchids, irises, and tulips. Both the Rilo and the Rhodope Mountain regions are rich in indigenous plants that are representative of the flora of the alpine regions. The jasmine grows wild on the southern slopes of the Balkans and the lilac through the Rilo and the Rhodope, while the edelweiss is showing its heads on the summits of the Pirin range of mountains.

The large summer resort at Varna with its long sandy beach, ideal climate, and picturesque coast scenery completes the characteristic features of the country.

Up to recent years these special features were practically unknown in Europe. To-day the position has changed. The foreign visitors to the Varna summer resorts for the last three years are as follows — 1926—1,100; 1927—3,100; 1928—8,300, 1929—15,000. The number of foreign visitors to the health resorts. (Thermal Baths) for taking the cure were over 6000. These visitors were mainly from Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Greece, Turkey and Egypt. The tourist traffic to the mountain resorts, included parties from Germany, Italy, Egypt and Austria. The total number registered at the Tourist Federation Offices were 8000.

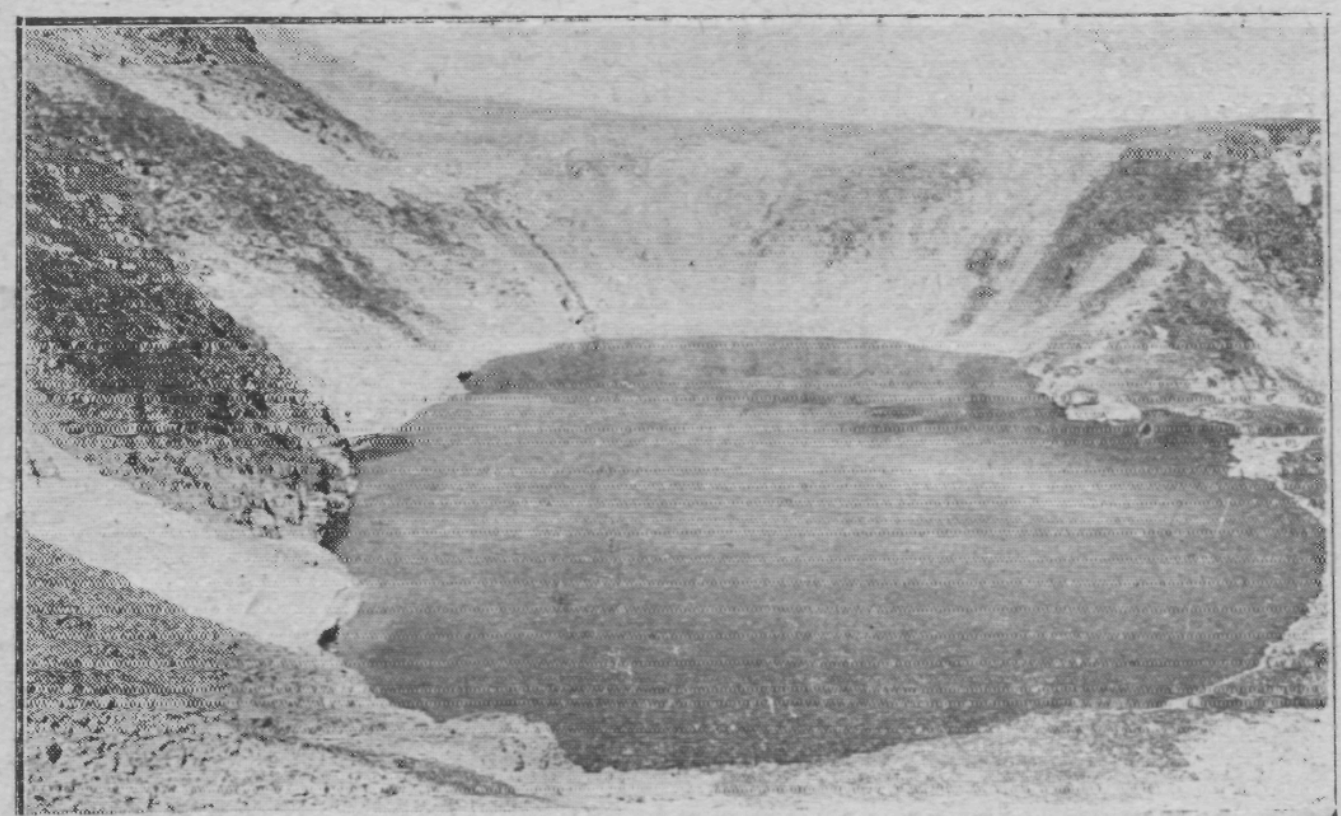
The Tourist Federation have over 60 branches in the provincial towns and at villages, and are

each year surveying new routes, erecting huts at the summits of the more important and picturesque scenery and providing accommodation for its members.

Health Resorts.

The luxurious baths which are situated in various parts of the country at altitudes to suit all classes of invalids, the temperatures of the thermal waters varying at each watering place, and the assorted climatic conditions at the several stations, offers every condition required for health purposes. The Ludgene State Baths, are situated in the heart of the Rhodope mountains in the centre of an undulating valley surrounded on three sides by towering mountain masses. For convalescents this station is also ideal. Within 3 hours along winding streams which skirt the several defiles with high projections on either side, a changing panorama of scenery continually presents itself. On reaching the highest point of the main defile the traveller obtains a view of stretching fertile valleys and of the great towering Rilo and Balkan ranges in the distance. The flora ferns etc, to be found in these defiles and the natural rockeries to be continually met with which contains crocuses, irises, tulips and the multicoloured array of nature's wild flowers, with aromas which spread throughout the defiles are such that it is difficult for the pen to describe. The temperatures of the waters at Ludgene are 53°C. Each year thousands of invalids and others from European countries and local invalids visit this resort for taking the cure and convalescents for the exhilarating mountain air and the pleasant surroundings.

The modern baths at Vershetz are situated high up in the Balkan of Stara Planina range of mountains, 5000 feet above sea level some 70 kilometres from Sofia. Here a change of scenery can be had. From



Lake Below „Edi Gail“ in Rilo Mountain.

the rolling undulating valley and well defined defiles of the Rhodopes rugged peaks and precipitous slopes are to be seen and at points the great sloping valley descending to the West. The flora also slightly changes and as one progresses in the mountain the scenery changes in both form and splendour.

The historical old watering place at Hissar in South Bulgaria 60 kilometres north-east of the City of Philippopolis rests on the great Philippopolis plain at the mouth of the Valley of Roses and the southern end of the slopes of the Balkan Mountains. Remains of the old high Roman walls of the Fortress still exist which were erected to defend the old city and the

British Students visit Country.

A party of British students, representatives from the Leeds, Cambridge, Edinburgh and Liverpool Universities, who during the summer vacation made a tour in European and Balkan countries, arrived in Sofia on August 15th and during their stay in the Capital were the guests of the Bulgarian Students Union. The party were met at the Railway Station by the Bulgarian Students and a deputation from the Bulgarian British Association. During their short stay they visited the principal sites of interest escorted by a party of students. On the evening of the 16th a Banquet was given in their honour by the Students Union, which was attended by Professors from the Sofia Universities, the British Consul, representatives of the Press Bureau from the

baths in which apparently the Romans and before them the Thracians placed great importance. Here there are 20 springs of varying temperatures. According to discoveries of the remains of old roman baths no fewer than 9 were made use of in olden times. At present 5 only are in use. These waters are said to be rich in radio activity. The climatic conditions of this district again varies from those stated above. Situated on the plains south of the Balkan range of mountains the climate is practically semi-tropical, for 9 months in the year, the average temperature in the Philippopolis county varies from 17 to 30 degrees centigrade (May to September). Within 40 miles of Hissar, by first class roads, one can again be in the midst of another section of the great Balkan range of mountains. The climb from Klissoura after passing through the Valley of Roses, to the historic old town of Pirdop and thence to the town of Panagurishte is a panorama not to be equalled in Europe. Space only prevents enumerating the many beautiful places in these great mountain ranges, all of which are interesting and instructive.

Historical.

Bulgaria has many attractions, the quiet charm of the countryside, with primitive villages, native customs and habits, the recent archeological discoveries in the mountains at Preslav of the ruins of the Palace of King Simeon that tell the 1000 year old story of the Bulgarian race: Tirnovo, the capital of the second Bulgarian Kingdom which is situated in a narrow mountain valley through which the river Yantra flows taking several capricious turns resembling the figure 8 forming three small peninsulas with perpendicular cliffs. An unknown poet in the past described these as magical ships. On these three huge stone ships the ancient capital was built, and to-day can be seen the massive thick foundations of the walls which once protected these large natural fortresses which have perpendicular cliffs over 300 feet in height. Within the fortress the Royal Palaces were built and the foundations can also be seen amongst the weeds and undergrowth.

Those in search of a change of scenery, desirous of taking a course of thermal or sunbaths, could not find more congenial surroundings nor conditions than those which are to be found in Bulgaria. It is safe to predict that as soon as these summer and health resorts become known in the English speaking countries, numbers of people in search of health or pleasure will explore this new field, where the State and Municipalities are gradually improving these sources of natural wealth to provide suitable accommodation for visitors.

Foreign Office, members of the Council of the Bulgarian British Association and the Students Union. The principal toast was that of their Majesty's King Boris III and King George V. which was drank with musical honours, the National Anthems of both countries being played by the orchestra. Professor C. Stephanoff, Lecturer of English Literature at the Sofia University welcomed the distinguished guests on behalf of the Bulgarian Students Union. In an able speech, the speaker pointed out the culture of England 1,000 years ago in the reign of King Alfred the Great and that of King Simeon the Great of Bulgaria whose millennium celebrations were held in June last, and the advancement of British culture as compared with small Bulgaria, due to conflicts and the 500 years of bondage of the Bulgarian people during this period and the progress made by the nation in its short life after liberation. This excellent speech created a deep impression and was received with prolonged applause. Mr. Fred. W. Pitt, Chairman of the Editing Committee read an address on behalf of the Council and members of the Bulgarian British Association. This was followed by a speech by Mr. C. D. Chacaroff in which the names of Lady Strangford and William Gladstone were quoted for their services rendered to the Bulgarian cause and especially that of Gladstone and England for the humanitarian services rendered and which were responsible for the Nation gaining its liberty.

Mr. J. Barker, Secretary of the Students Christian Movement at the Leeds University, and in charge of the party, responded to the several speeches. The speaker pointed out the object of their visit and expressed the hope that the new movement which is being fostered in the Universities and which is rapidly spreading throughout the world for peace and goodwill will, will eventually, by personal contact, create a better understanding and that the spirit of friendship which will be the result will contribute towards improving the social conditions of life amongst the nations. Mr. Barker concluded by thanking the Bulgarian students and those who had done so much to make their stay so enjoyable, the memory of which would long remain with them.

The party left for Constantinople on the 18th, returned to Sofia on the 23rd, and departed for Europe on the 24th August. Prior to departure the Council and Members of the Bulgarian British Association entertained the guests to tea. Over 40 persons were present, including the British Consul, Mr. Douglas Young, Professors from the Sofia Universities and prominent citizens. Mr. Grigor Vassileff, Vice President of the Association in a short speech welcomed the guests and expressed the pleasure their visit had been to the Bulgarian students and people. After pointing out the important significance of the first visit of British students to Bulgaria and the hope they would carry away happy memories of this all too short stay in Sofia, the speaker expressed the wish and hope that next year 1000 students would come and spend a longer sojourn so that they could see some of the natural beauties of the country and concluded by wishing them a safe journey to their homeland.

Mr. Barker, in charge of the party, in a short speech responded and thanked the Bulgarian British Association and all those who had done so much for them since their arrival in the country.

Auld Lang Syne brought the proceedings to a close when the party and guests proceeded to the Station where they received a hearty send off.

Bulgaria and its People.

BY P. M. MATTHEEFF.

A happy man is forgotten in his sorrows. Of his, former distinction, proved abilities, and influences traces are soon effaced when the expectations from them have been crippled. So it is with Bulgaria. Bulgaria was better known and better appreciated when she was happy, a go ahead young country, when she was proving time after time her great value, her great possibilities.

The former clear knowledge of Bulgaria, now that she is burdened with the disastrous results of the great war, appears to be much obscured even reversed. Her worth is heavily discounted and expectations from her are derided. There is no reason for such a change as regards Bulgaria, facts protest against it. The defamatory campaign carried so strenuously during and after the war by its neighbour enemy countries is responsible for the change. To understand the proper value of Bulgaria and its people one should have some knowledge of how from a forgotten during centuries people it arose, in a very short time, from nothing, to a nation even to lead its neighbour, now defamers, States to the attainment of even their exaggerated national ideals.

During nearly five centuries the Bulgarian people existed under the spiritual rule of the Greek church, under which it was placed on the fall of Constantinople under the Turks, and the political one of the conquerors. The alien spiritual subjection was more ruinous for the people, and it lay heavier upon it, than the political one because it pursued particular and systematically the effacement of their nationality. During this period it was merged for all political purposes into the Greek element, and, as late as 1870, when the Bulgarians obtained the recognition of national church rights, they passed under the name of Roum the name given to the Greeks and borne by them from the Byzantine empire.

It was in 1772 that the first spark which kindled a national spirit in the people was struck. A monk in a monastery at Mount Athos wrote a very simple history of the Bulgarian people, before its conquest by the Turks. In the preface he very dramatically appealed to it, called upon it to remember its glorious past, to look forward to a bright future and not be ashamed of itself. This history was copied and recopied by hand and spread among the people. Up to this event the people had apparently forgotten its past existence as a nation apart from that of the Greek (Roum). The bishops were Greek appointed by the Constantinople Patriarchate which ran down every attempt of education in Bulgaria. All Bulgarians who attempted it were reported to the Civil authorities and imprisoned or exiled as political conspirators. Non submission to the bishops must lead to insubordination to them. The following incident will illustrate this situation. In 1834 a well known wealthy Bulgarian of Philipople, influential with the Turks, was prompted to open a Bulgarian school. He communicated his desire to his friend the Greek bishop. The bishop hears him and answers:

Tchorbadji, (title given to Christians of importance) you know very well that I myself will throw no impediment to the execution of your desire but in obedience to my

strict orders I will have to report to the Patriarchate that a Bulgarian school has been opened. The Patriarchate will not oppose it at first but later will find some occasion to calumniate you before the authorities and you will be exiled. and of course there will be an end to any attempt such as yours. I counsel you, if you value your liberty to renounce your intention.

The first Bulgarian press, was established in 1838 in Salonica. It was burnt down after two years existence under great difficulties. Another enterprising Bulgarian in Macedonia endeavoured to restore it; he was finally permitted by the Greek bishop to print books in Bulgarian but in Greek letters. Such was the domineering mastership of the Greek over the Bulgarian. Many were the disadvantages with which the Bulgarian people had to contend in its work for regeneration. The Turkish Government recognised the christian church but not the national elements in them. The reading and writing down to the beginning of the 19th century was taught by the monks and priests in the monastery and church cells and direct from the holy books. There were no organised schools, nor were there special books to teach them from. The first elementary reader for teaching purposes was published in 1824; The first book printed, a book of prayers in 1806; in Roumania; The first printing press was established in 1838 in Salonica; The first Bulgarian paper was published in 1836 in Smyrna. The writer remembers in the fifties of the last century how he first learned to read with the old Slav letters written by the teacher on a piece of board which he carried to the school slung round his neck; how his attempts to write, his first lesson, were on sand spread on a board.

The question is often asked why the Bulgarian of all the Nationalities, subjected during centuries under the Turkish rule, were the last to claim national rights, and last to obtain their freedom? The Bulgarian people occupy the best central part of the Balkan Peninsula where the power of the Turks in Europe was concentrated, and was isolated from direct contact with the western world. Greece, Roumania, and Serbia had the advantage of being on the confines of Turkey and in uninterrupted communication with the outside world.

The liberation of Bulgaria from the Turks took place in 1878, resulting from the Russo-Turkish war. The people were not prepared for a free independent life, they lacked competent men. School teachers, merchants, tradesmen and grocers had to be appointed to the administrative judicial etc. posts. The start or knowledge for carrying out the government administrative work was given to the people during the one year of the Russian occupation. For several years services requiring professional work, foreigners were enlisted.

In fifty years the country has developed into a complete modern state, and no longer requires the service of the foreigners. In education it is equal to any of its older neighbours; in the literacy of the people it has surpassed them. Within seven years the people proclaimed the union between Eastern-Roumelia and the Principality in violation of the Berlin Treaty, and in opposition to Russia's particular policy, and the two united successfully drove back the Serbian

(continued on page 12).

Court and Personal.

His Majesty the King, accompanied by Princess Eudoxia and Suite returned to the Sofia Palace on the 13th September, from the summer Palace at Euxinograd on the Black Sea, and will be in residence for the winter season.

H. R. H. Prince Kyril of Preslav, brother of His Majesty the King arrived at the Palace and will remain for a sport period.

His Excellency the British Minister, R. A. C. Sperling C. B., C. M. G. returned to the Capital after a short leave of absence in England.

On 18th September His Majesty the King received in audience His Excellency R. A. C. Sperling C. B., C. M. G., who presented his letters of recall upon relinquishing the appointment of British Minister at Sofia.

Professor Serge Konovaloff, Professor from the Birmingham University, founder of the Slavonic Society at the Birmingham University, arrived in the Capital in August to study the country and securing data for the purpose of delivering lectures on Bulgaria at English Universities during the coming season, returned to London on the 12th September.

Mr. Atanas Bouroff, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Vladimir Molloff, Minister of Finance, accompanied by Mr. Rene Charron, Commissioner of the League of Nations, and Mr. Assen Ivanoff, Governor Bulgarian National Bank, as Bulgarian Delegates, attended the September Assembly of the League of Nations, at Geneva.

Mr. Reuben H. Markham, writer, journalist, and Balkan correspondent to several American newspapers who has been a resident in Bulgaria for some 15 years, together with Mrs. Markham and family, left for Vienna on the 27th August where they will now reside. During their stay in Bulgaria they both have taken a deep interest in the social life amongst the English speaking colony, especially the English Speaking League.

Prof. M. Peterson, professor of theology at the Birmingham University arrived in the capital on 6th August, to study the organization of the Orthodox Church and the religious life of Bulgaria. During his stay he was the guest of His Grace Archbishop Stephan and visited the various religious institutions in the country.

Lieut. Col. V. Proctor, who was British delegate appointed by the League of Nations in 1926 to study the Refugee problem in Bulgaria in connection with the Refugee Loan, arrived in the capital on 11th August on a private visit and remained several days.

Professor Jacques Bruchesi of the Montreal University, correspondent to the Canadian Journal "Canada" who is enquiring into the general question of the Minorities in the Balkans, arrived in Sofia on the 11th August and during his stay interviewed a number of prominent officials and others.

Mrs. Liaptcheff, wife of H. E. the Prime Minister proceeded to Europe by the Orient Express on 4th August and will be absent for a month or two.

Mr. J. Ellice, from London, who has been touring the country during July and August, left Sofia on 28th August.

An Impression of Bulgaria.

The following is an impression of Bulgaria by Miss Nora Yates, from Leeds University, the only lady member of the British group of students who visited the country in July last on their tour to the Near East and Balkan countries during the summer vacation.

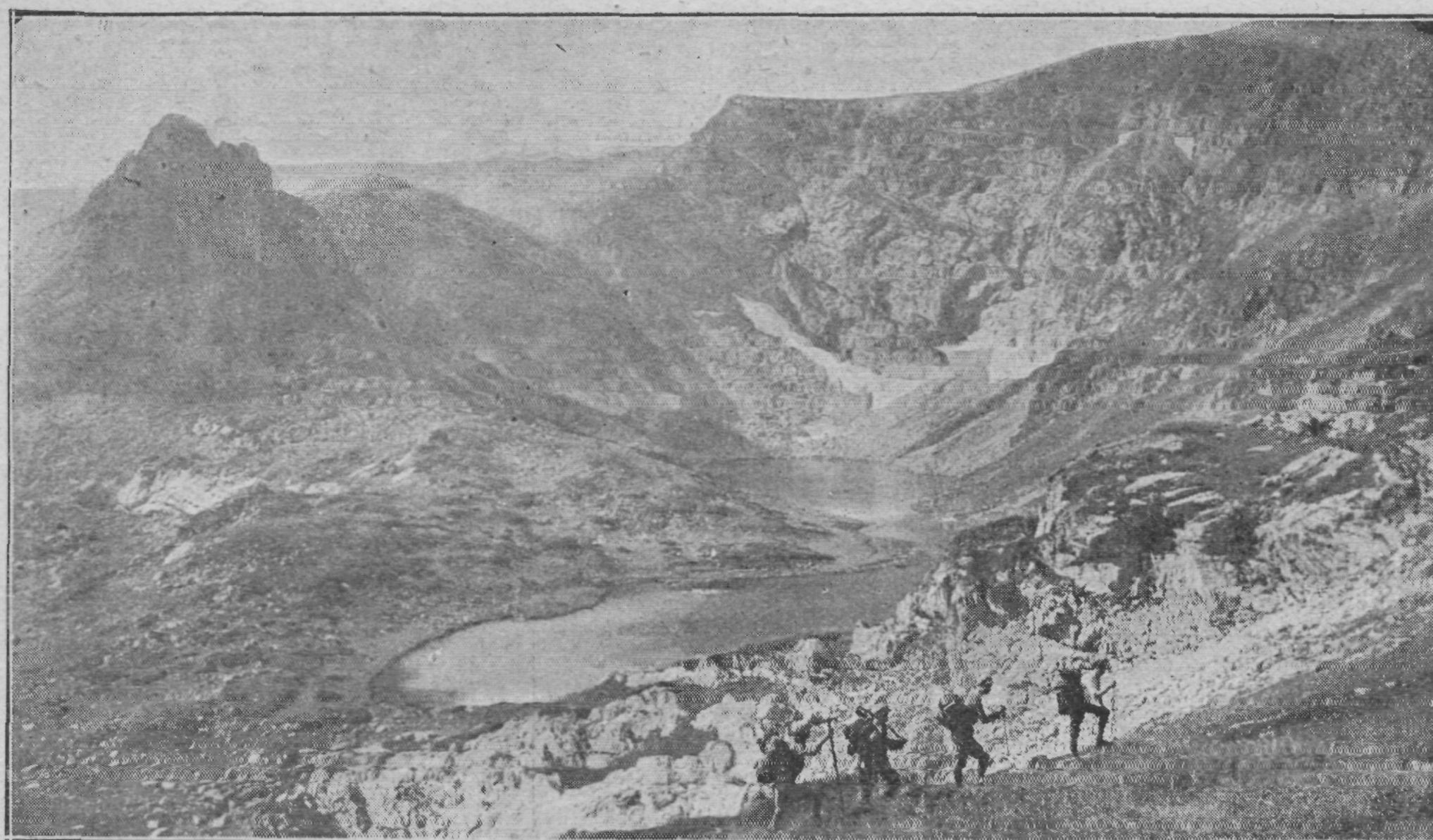
At a frontier the landscape, people, customs and everything are different. So I found in Bulgaria. A member of a pioneer group reaching Sofia, I pondered on the country and its people. What was there here for me to see? What to feel, to learn, to know? What to discover, for one charm of travel lies here — the charm of discovery.

Our object in visiting Sofia was divided between a curiosity to see the town and a desire to make new friends. We did both for there is a kindly hospitality in the quiet city. I thought her people a proud people for they still refuse to acquire Serbian consciousness, and felt that quietly and patiently they were working out their destiny. They have suffered, and I felt Sofia had a sad air, people do not yet display their feelings. I began to appreciate something of the cultural progress of their country which has slowly fought its way to a freedom which it has maintained for some 50 years. I sensed a Bulgarian nationality which could not be quenched. Education, too, seems to flourish. Sofia has opened many new schools — Primary, Secondary, Private and Technical schools — and there is a modern education provided by the State to compare favourably with ours at home. Progress often deprives us of things which are beautiful, interesting or instructive, but Sofia's museums cannot fail to supply these to those who care to learn something of her history. To spend perhaps a day among these relics of the past is more satisfying than much learning, and the past becomes reality.

Although Bulgarian visas are dear to the average impecunious traveler and her frontiers severe, the country offers much in return. Sofia especially, guarded with a ring of purple mountains, is yet easy of access and communications are good with the world outside. It is a comparatively newly built city and red roofed houses of cream and yellow convey an impression of cleanliness. All these have a central nucleus in the beautiful church of Alexander Nevski. Those seeking for a note of the picturesque orient will find it here. The east dreams sway below its gilded dome and lavishly displays its wealth of colour and decoration. But for the rest Sofia is a modest capital. It has no great wealth, for of Bulgaria's people 80% are peasants whose chief occupation is agriculture. It is a sheer delight on one of the dusty roads to meet a peasant at the close of a day. His bullock waggon crawls along and he is content. Time obviously plays no part where transport by oxen is concerned.

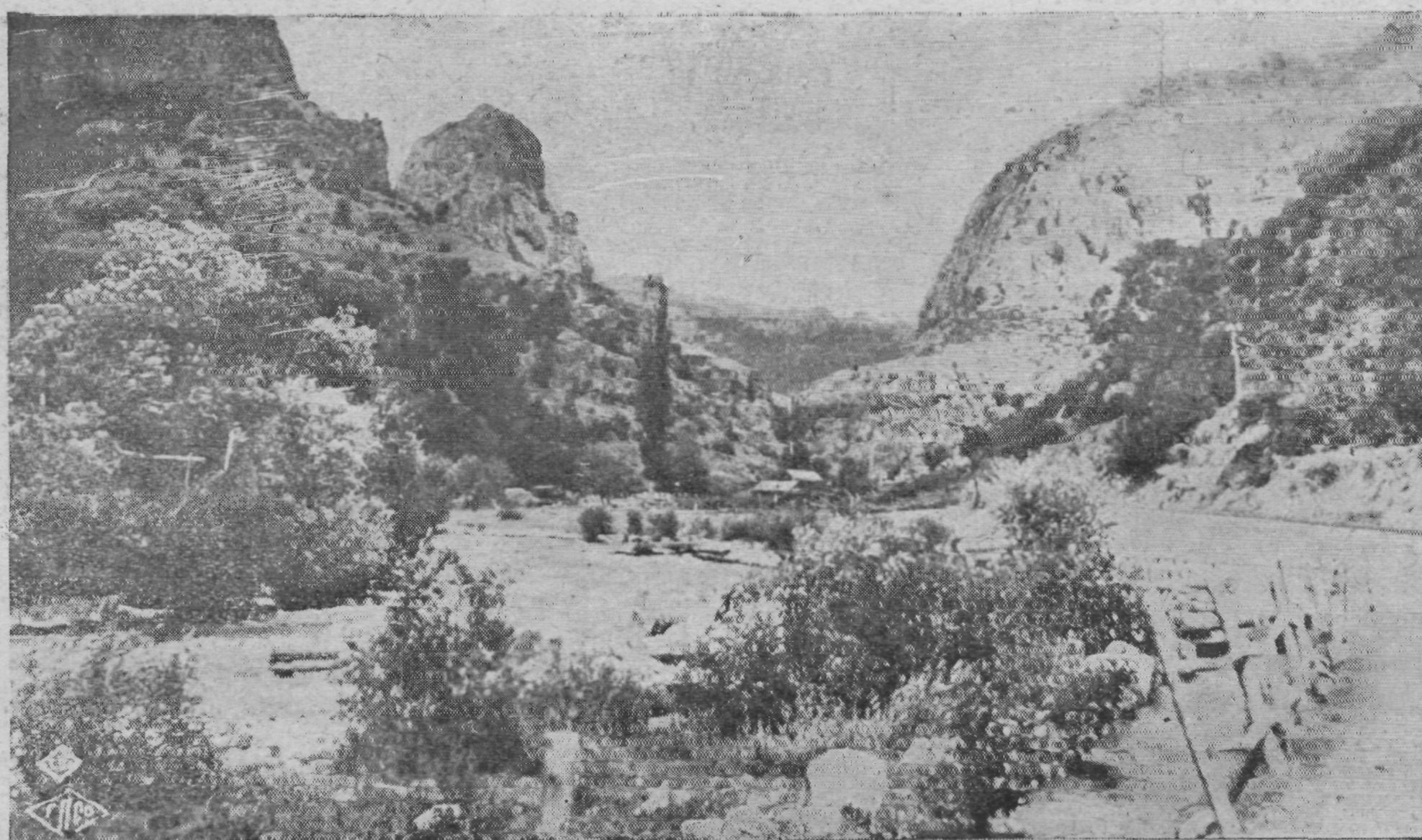
I have other impressions too of lethargic bootblacks with pots of coloured creams, huge baskets of golden peaches, melons piled high in dusky alcoves, and the bright green of the paprika, all this is Sofia. But stronger than all these are my impressions of a kindly welcome, a bountiful hospitality and friendliness which could not be equalled whatever other frontiers be crossed.

**The Mountain
Scenery of Bulgaria.
Typical Views.**



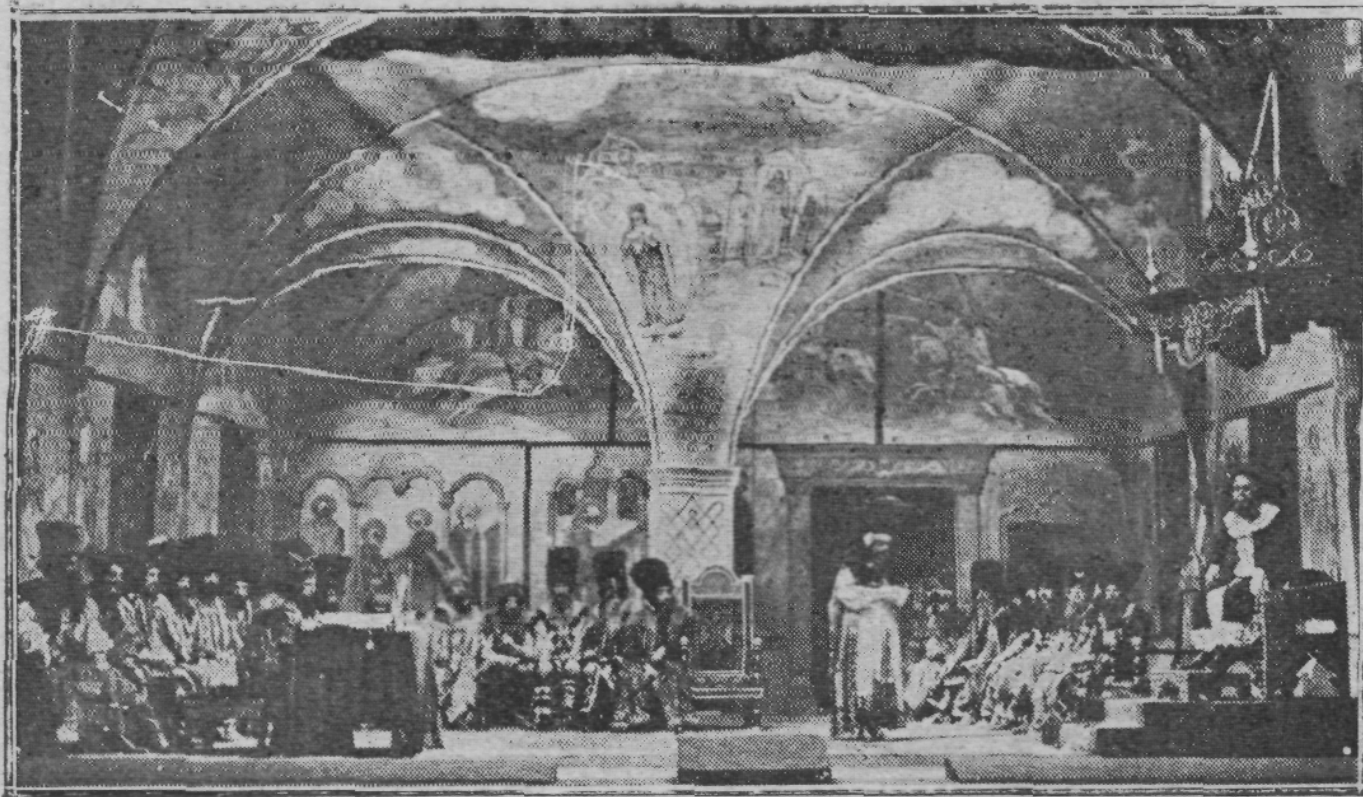
(Top) Picturesque view
on Rilo Mountain
(Left) Waterfall in
The Rila River

Lake „Blisnaka“ in
a rugged section of
The Rilo Ranges.



Opening National Opera Season.

The National Theatre (Opera and Drama) opened its new season on September 2nd. Since the new theatre was opened in March last the management has taken full advantage of the opportunities which the large modern mechanically equipped stage has given and prepared productions on a scale hitherto unknown in Bulgaria. The scenery arranged for the great Russian opera Boris Godounoff was a revelation and displayed the grandeur upon which opera can now be produced. The scenery, lighting effects, intermingled with the multicoloured rich costumes of the artists and chorus left a deep impression on the large



Scene in Act. 2. from Opera Boris Godounoff.

audience which filled the theatre at each performance. The large orchestra, under the direction of the new musical director M. Zlatin, combined with the excellent acoustic arrangements of the theatre, completed Moussovsky's great work.

During the present season four operas new to Bulgaria will be produced, namely: "Kosova" by the Bulgarian Composer G. Atanasoff, the Russian opera "Sneganka" by Rimsky Korsakoff, the Flying Dutchman by Richard Wagner and "The Woman of Windsor" by Nicolai. From the present repertoire the standard operas Faust, Carmen, Samson and Delilah and Prince Igor will be produced on the same lavish scale.

The dramatic season will consist of 12 new productions, dramas and comedies, by the well known dramatists, Langer, Mollier, Villiers, and Hofmanstal. These will include Lady Windermere's Fan by Oscar Wilde, the Nobleman, by Mollier, with music by Richard Strauss, and Electra by Hofmanstal with music by Padareasky. From the present repertoire, "The Midsummer's Night Dream" by Shakespaere, Tzar Feodor and Madam Ingor by Ibsen will be included. The scenery and stage effects will be on the same scale as the operatic productions. The dramatic section of the National Theatre is one of the most highly developed branches of the arts in Bulgaria, and dates back 25 years. For the millenium celebrations, the drama "Simeon" by the well known Bulgarian author Ludmil Kostoff was produced for the first time in June last and is one of the outstanding works staged from the pen of a Bulgarian author.

The opera season opened with the musical drama Fedora in three acts by V. Djordano and libretto by A. Golletti. The part of Fedora was portrayed by

Miss L. Christova who possesses a rich pure Mezzo Soprano voice and dramatic abilities, supported by S. Makedonsky (tenor) P. Zolotovitch (baritone) and a strong caste. The stage setting for the second act, the scene being the house of Fedora in Paris, with the large reception room, adjoining, a gorgeously decorated and furnished drawing room, with the guests in full evening dress, and the lighting effects perfect in every way, presented a scene which could only be produced in a first class theatre. Being a musical drama the principal work was confined to Fedora, Lonis, and d'Serio who each in turn portrayed their respective characters in a most satisfactory manner. The scene which was presented with the rising of the curtain for the third act, was a revelation of what stage effects can be brought to with modern equipment. The scene was a villa in the Berne Alps, Switzerland, in summer. The alpine scenery with a clear blue sky produced by the large curtain which encircles the border of the entire stage with a powerful array of lighting effects was dazzling. The villa tucked away in the corner of this alpine scenery with scarlet runners in bloom creeping along the fences and the walls of the villa was most effective. This combined with the blazing sun on the alpine scenery in the distance, required no imagination of what the reality is in Switzerland. The scene was as realistic as modern stage science could produce. The continued applause from the large audience present was an indication of their appreciation of the music and artists on the one side, and on the other the gorgeous scenic effects produced.

On Sept 6th the musical extravaganza "Sneganka" by the Russian composer H. Rilski Korsakoff, consisting of a prologue and four acts was presented for the first time in Bulgaria. The production was on a scale which would compare favourably with those to be



Scene in act 4 from Opera Boris Godounoff.

seen in the large theatres in European capitals. The music was typically Russian in character, and the motive of each scene clearly portrayed. The ballet music was particularly characteristic of the fiery Russian dances. Both the acting and singing of artists and chorus was most pleasing. From a musical and artistic point of view the performance was a decided success and appreciated by the large audience present.

Other productions during the month were "The Barber of Saville" and Verdi's "Rigoletto".

General News.

The Bulgarian Health Resorts.

The number of persons, invalids and others who have visited the health resorts during the present season and taken baths at the six State Thermal baths, Banki, Hissar, Vershetz, Knaijovo, Gorna Bania, and Oftcha-koupel, were as follows.

May	48,212
June	136,271
July	279,094
August	409,936

The Ludgene baths, situated in the Rhodope mountains, during the same period were visited by over 125,000 invalids, convalescents and others. Reports from the several baths situated in other parts of the country also report a record season. The high curative properties of the radio-active and other thermal waters for rheumatism, sciatica, lumbago, and diseases peculiar to women etc., have given some extraordinary results. The State Laboratory is now engaged in extensive analysis of the thermal springs, and medical officers are giving special attention to the effects of cures at the various stations.

The Ministry of Commerce (Mineral water Section) is raising a Treasury loan of 50,000,000 levas (£75,000) for effecting improvements at the State Baths during the winter season. These will include the laying out of new and extending the existing parks at the baths for visitors, enlarging present baths, and constructing new buildings at important springs.

The number of foreign visitors to the baths during the season, to the end of August, were over 6000.

Association News.

The first meeting of the new Administrative Council was held on 21st August, and was presided over by Mr. Charles T. Watkis, Vice President. The programme for the year's work was discussed and the new committees appointed. The following are the respective committees:

Editing Committee

Fred. W. Pitt, Chairman
Grigor Vasilieff
Ivan Kolaroff
Dr. Boris Yanchouloff

Finance Committee

G. Bourilkof
D. Antonoff
H. Davidoff
V. Zagoroff

Cultural Committee

Pancho Doreff, Chairman.
Trifon Trifonoff
Charles T. Watkis
Grigor Vasileff
Miss Karadjova
Miss Prolitch.

Entertainment Committee

Grigor Vasilieff, Chairman.
F. W. Pitt
Dr. B. Yanchouloff
Ivan Kolaroff

Royal Automobile Club Trials.

On the 29th September the Bulgarian Royal Automobile Club, are holding a motor endurance race from Sofia, Pirdop, Karlovo, Plovdiv, Tatar-Pazardjik, Kostenetz, Tcham Koria, and back to the city, a distance of 410.5 kilometres. This route embraces steep mountain climbing over the Balkan, Sredna Gora and Rilo range of mountains. The trials are open to all nationalities and motor cars, and is divided into two categories, first, motors developing above 12.5 H. P. and, second, under 12.5 H. P. Motors rated under 12.5 H. P. but developing over 4,000 r. p. m. will be placed in the first category.

The prizes consist of a Gold, Silver and Bronze R. A. C. Medal for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, together with a present accompanying each prize.

Great interest is being taken in this coming event and it is expected that there will be entrants from all the local Motor Car Agencies in the country.

Sofia American College.

The new American College at Simeonovo, 7 kilometres from Sofia, which is replacing the Samokov American School, founded at Philippopolis in 1860 and transferred to the town of Samokov in 1871/2, is gradually nearing completion. The girls' section which was opened last year has accommodation for 225 pupils. The Buildings for the boys section, which were started in 1928 are now complete and the pupils from Samokov will remove to their new premises commencing with the opening of the new school term on 20th September. In addition to the new buildings for dormitories, classrooms etc. houses have been erected to accommodate the married teachers, and a hospital which will be fitted with modern conveniences, also provided with a balcony for sunbaths. Good roads have been built throughout the College grounds and on either side are planted with trees. The dormitories and classes for the boys section will have accommodation for 195 borders. The total number of pupils in residence will be 420.

In August 249 candidates presented themselves for the entrance examinations for the new term, and only 114 of which could be accepted, 57 girls and 57 boys. A large number of applications for entrance are continually being received by the Direction and rejected owing to lack of accommodation. When the building scheme is finally completed the College will accommodate 750 pupils.

The excellent work which this educational institution is doing in Bulgaria for the advancement of the English language and culture cannot be measured in terms of words or figures. A number of prominent men to-day in science, literature and art are graduates from this College and each year others are passing out into the labour market, either to take up professions or enter into commerce.

Horsemanship.

At the international Horse Show held at Aix-la-Chapelle in August, Captain (Riding Master) K. Levarsky of the Royal Horse Guards, riding „Pavel“, a Bulgarian mount after winning several jumping events, was declared the champion, out of 59 competitors represented by 11 nations. During the last three years Bulgarian horsemen have won events at the tournaments held in several European countries.

The Sporting Season.

The sporting season which is drawing to a close has been one of the most successful in the history of Bulgarian sport. The Soccer football season especially has been followed with keen interest by a large section of the public, and is the most popular game in the country. In May the Rumanian National Football Team paid a visit to the capital and several international matches were played with first League Clubs, and a Bulgarian National Team. In July a Greek National Team visited the country for the first time and played a test match with the Bulgarian team, resulting in a draw (1:1). This was followed in August by a visit from the Egyptian National Sporting Club from Cairo. The Bulgarian National Football Team visited Budapest in August and played several international matches. These events have been the means of



The 100 yards start.

giving a new stimulus amongst the younger players in the second league to work hard and to win their blues for entering the first league teams next year, and has brought forward several prominent players in the first league teams. The team play by the home team, which was composed mainly of members of the first class clubs Levsky, Slavia and A. C. 23, during the several international matches, against the picked players of the respective countries, indicated clearly the high standard the players of this favourite sport have reached. The first and second rounds of the senior league teams for the King's Cup have been played off; the semi-finals will be played in September and the cup final on the 15th October.

Sofia Athletic Meeting.

The Sofia District Athletic Championship meeting was held on the 31st August and 1st September at the large Levsky Stadium, in Prince Boris Park, when the pick of the athletes of the four city clubs met to contest for the finals of 17 different events. The followers of the several clubs turned up in full force to support their competitors and the keenest interest taken by those competing to defend their clubs. Three records (in Bulgaria) were broken, namely for the high jump, throwing the spear, and 100 metres race.

The result of the finals were A. C. 23 Club, first, with 129 points, second, Levsky Sporting Club with 43 points and Slavia Club third with 39 points. Pedan of A. C. 23 was first in the 800, 400 and 200 metres. He is a youth of 24 years of age, 6 feet in height and one of the most promising athletes in the country. Peev of the Levsky team won the 4,000 metres race with a big handicap. He also is one of the outstanding

athletes. The high jump of 165 c. m. was won by Dimiter S. Spasoff, when the Bulgarian record was broken. Luben Dotcheff of A. C. 23 Club won the vaulting event having cleared the rail at 3m. 40c. the record for Bulgaria is 3m. 44s

At the close of the meeting Lieut. General Lazaroff, Officer Commanding the Sofia Military District and Hon President of the Sofia Sporting Federation, presented the medals to the various winners. In a short speech General Lazaroff referred to the progress made by sport in Bulgaria during the last few years and impressed upon the youth to continue this healthy exercise, as by developing the sporting instinct they would also form their character and grow up to be healthy citizens. Three hearty cheers were given to the great Soldier, and Patriot, who thanked all present, and expressed the wish that the sporting season for 1930 would be as successful as the present.

Cycling.

The Cyclist's Union, the oldest sporting association in the country and which has clubs in every city and town, held a Congress and Sports meeting at Varna from the 17th to 19th August. Representatives numbering thousands from every Club in the Kingdom, took part. The Congress was opened by a Te-deum, held by the Varna Archbishop and clergy, which was attended by His Majesty the King and Suite, the Mayor and Council and prominent citizens. After the service His Majesty inspected the parade of Cyclists and afterwards, in a short address, declared the Congress open. To the strains of a Military Band the parade marched past His Majesty, and proceeded to the sports ground, where the specially arranged programme was carried out.

Tennis.

The tennis season has also been successful and has produced several good players. The annual tournaments were held during August. The results for Ladies open singles were Mrs. E. Ivanoff defeated Mrs. Stephanoff 8-6 and 6-1, and claims the Lady Champion honours for 1929. The mens open singles resulted in a win for Mr. M. Poulieff who defeated Mr. Souroudieff by 6/2, 6/2 and 6/4 and therefore claims the title of gentleman champion for 1929.



The Winners of Athletic events.

On Sept 5th representatives from the Salonika Tennis Club visited Sofia, at the invitation of the Bulgarian Sporting Club, and a number of matches were played. Both in the singles and mixed doubles the Sofia team held their own, and during the several matches some most interesting tennis was witnessed by the large audience which attended all the events.

Agricultural Notes.

Imports and Production of Cotton in Bulgaria

The favourable conditions in the southern part of Bulgaria to grow cotton on one side and the large imports of raw cotton into the country on the other hand have induced the Ministry of Agriculture to start a campaign among the peasants for intensifying cotton growing. This pioneer work has now reached the stage at which the cotton grown in Bulgaria has proven to be of good quality.

The following tables give the areas under cotton during the last 6 years, the imports from 1907 to 1928, and the local production from 1908 to 1928.

Areas under Cotton Cultivation

YEAR	Area Under Cotton (Decares)	Percentage of the total area under cultivation
1923	16,585.7	0.06
1924	21,454.8	0.07
1925	29,410.3	0.09
1926	30,138.8	0.10
1927	51,521.7	0.16
1928	48,637.1	?

Imports of Raw Cotton

YEAR	Quantity in Tons	Value in million leva
1907	1,237.6	1.4
1908	1,207.5	1.3
1909	1,232.0	1.4
1910	718.0	1.1
1911	808.0	1.2
1919	1.0	0.01
1920	25.0	0.85
1921	4.0	0.15
1922	22.0	0.22
1923	30.5	1.2
1924	6.0	9.2
1925	221.0	15.8
1926	808.0	47.5
1927	1,362.0	88.7
1928	1,735.0	125.2

Production of Raw Cotton

YEAR	Quantity in Tons	Value in million leva
1908—1912	Average 181.0	0.33
1918	163.7	5.3
1919	214.4	7.7
1920	262.7	11.1
1921	243.1	10.3
1922	209.0	11.1
1923	286.1	16.5
1924	270.4	17.2
1925	448.3	26.4
1926	500.7	27.3
1927	749.6	38.8
1928	941.8	?

Agricultural Production 1919—1928.

From 1924—28 the number of hectares under cultivation for cereals were 2,339,496, as compared with 2,098,423 hectares 1919—1923 and for industrial plants — 1923—28 — 96,027 hectares against 58,648 for 1919—1924. The production

of cereals in the former period were 22,886, 734 quintals against 18,694,418 quintals in 1919—23, and for industrial plants 2,966,363 quintals, as compared with 2,035,373 quintals 1919—23. The export of cereals 1924—28 were 1,939,337 quintals as compared with 1,392,050 quintals during 1919—23.

In the pre-war period 1908—1911 the production of cereals were 24,381,920 quintals, and for the years 1910 and 1911, 26, 881, 280 and 28,736,050 quintals respectively.

Analyzing these figures it will be seen that the production in the latter part of the post war period has decreased by 2.1%, and 3.9% as compared with the year 1911. This is mainly accounted for by the loss of the large wheat growing areas in the Dobrudja.

The production of industrial plants especially sunflower seeds has made rapid progress in the last three years and during 1927—28 a number of factories were established for the refinery of Edible oils. Bulgaria is now in a position to export a quantity of these oils.

Agricultural Co-operative Movement.

The report of the 15th Congress of the General Union of Bulgarian Agricultural Co-operatives held in 1927 gives the number of Societies as 1457 with 196,134 members, divided into 21 regional groups, which consists of 895 credit, with 95,125 members; 7 wholesale 1,611 members; 4 viticulture, 442 members; 2 cattle raising 133 members; 6 forest exploitation, 740 members and 5 tobacco producing co-operatives with 2,916 members. In percentages these may be divided.

Agricultural	86.5%
Artizans	3.4%
Commercial	1.4%
Various professional	8.7%

The economic position of these institutions is as follows: 145,160 constructions of various dimensions, the property of 87,317 members; fields, grazing lands, vineyards, vegetable gardens, 493,806 hectares, or 5.7 hectares per family; domestic cattle (bullocks etc.) 327,906, heads, or 4 head per person; small cattle (sheep etc.) 1,322,700 head, or 15 head per person; modern ploughs (iron) 57,922 (66.5% owned this modern impliment); harrows 33,817. owned by 39% of members; reaping machines 2,051, or one machine to every 42 persons; grain Sorters 1,557, one to every 56; threshing machines 729, one to every 120; sowing machines 1,169—one to every 75; bullock wagons 90,450, belonging to 87,317 members.

These societies have 84 reading rooms. In 1927, 637 conferences were held, 478 instructive lectures, 50 classes or courses on various subjects, 179 demonstrations, and 8 competitions.

During the period under review these co-operatives disposed of a working capital of 16,512,324 leva. The real estate was valued at 124,318,920 leva or 134,982 per co-operative.

The total capital was 127,630,310 leva, and reserves 18,958,065, and various funds 38,743,147 leva, giving a grand total of 184,341,517 leva.

The various credits granted to members amounted to 199,713,924 leva and the total debt towards the Bulgarian Agricultural Bank was 315,855,601 leva.

The above figures go to prove that this co-operative movement represents a powerful force in the economic life of the country.

Opening of School Season 1929-30.

With the opening of the new season education makes another advance in the cultural life of the country. Over 444,376 Pupils (boys and girls), in towns and villages attending 5153 schools, with 14,983 teachers form this small army. Commencing with the season a new physical training programme is being introduced with the object of building up the physique of each child. The form and duration of the exercises have been so organized and defined as to fit the pupils of all ages, and the intensity of the exercises will develop gradually. The new system will be

Continued from page 5

invasion intended to bring the young rising nation to more respectful conduct for the wishes of those who should have been its guide. The people stood up with patience and perseverance for its independence and carried the election of Prince Ferdinand in the place of Prince Alexander dethroned by outside influence. Twelve years later it proclaimed its independence and established the Third Bulgarian Kingdom. Five years had not passed when it headed a coalition with Serbia, Montenegro, and Greece against the common oppressor of their nationals and fought brilliantly and successfully the decisive battles with him. All these achievements are not due to diplomacy, for in diplomacy the nation has proved itself over and over again very deficient, but to the sterling worth of the people, its stolid perseverance and unyielding character.

The country has recently met with disastrous reverses. Its leaders made greivous mistakes, many blunders, but the character of the people has not changed. From first among its neighbours it has been reduced to the last, and to a position of bearing burdens only. A sudden and unexpected misfortune, however great it may be, cannot annul virtues which enabled the Bulgarians to achieve so much. They are still there, and are awaiting their time to work out the destiny of the Nation, which preserved it during five centuries of an Asiatic alien political rule, and a far worse Phanariote Spiritual one.

Facts are facts. There is no reason whatever for changing one's former knowledge of Bulgaria and of lowering the degree of the appreciation in which she was held, of the capabilities of the people because of her recent misfortunes. Misfortunes come and go but the character which built up a nation remains. Evil reports are easily spread and believed, so it has been with Bulgaria, especially at present when she is heavily burdened and lies under the necessity to keep silent and endure. The country, the people are manfully prosecuting its work of progress, for the restoration of its losses, meeting patiently its overwhelming impositions, and not less so the domineering, and would be ruinous conduct of every one of its neighbours, every one of which is not particularly anxious to meet its obligations regarding Bulgaria as laid down by the Peace Treaty. What was good in Bulgaria before its recent misfortunes is there, we repeat, still. Its efforts are somewhat shackled, its spirit however to go forward is not weakened, and its people should be considered as worthy to-day as formerly, nay more so considering conditions, so unfavourable, she has to conform to in working out her destiny.

supervised by competent instructors who will be available to instruct teachers and watch the development of the pupils. In this way the physique and general health of the pupils, specially in the country and outlying districts, will be raised and with this physical development carried out in a regular and systematic manner it is expected that backward children will also improve in their general education.

Included in the school curriculum, there is singing, part singing, and choral work. A number of schools have organised their own orchestras and bands, amongst which are several composed of girls. The rivalry and competition created by these new institutions is rapidly increasing the standard of both the choirs and bands. The competition for marching and the best dressed school, specially amongst the girls schools, has also created rivalry. The sporting instinct, football, basketball and other athletic games are each year becoming more popular and the girls schools are outdoing the boys in nearly all branches of sport taken up. All this is encouraged by the Educational authorities and is having the effect of raising the standard of the pupils intellectually, and physically.

The report of the 1927-28 school season published by the Ministry of Education shews that in the populated places in Kingdom there are 96 cities and towns, 4244 villages and 1575 hamlets. or a total of 5913. In the period under review there were in the schools (excluding the Gymnasium, high schools) 415,298 pupils with 12588 teachers. Out of this total 316,410 pupils completed the school term, under the four classified headings, excellent, good, very good and fair. In percentage this represents, excellent 10%, very good 27%, good 33% and fair 29%. The failures were 2%. Summarised the results were 83% passed their examinations in the cities and towns and 72% in the villages.

The Gymnasium (High Schools) number 85, with 29,019 pupils and 1932 teachers. 14,483 pupils completed their examinations. There are 14 Teachers colleges in the country, and the number of applications for entrance, for the new term, greatly exceeds the accommodation available.

The reports from the numerous professional schools, situated throughout the country, on the years work have also been most satisfactory. A large number of pupils are each year being placed on the labour market with defined professions. The cabinet-making, and boot making schools have been the most successful, and a number of qualified workmen produced. The basket-making school, which is the youngest institution, is not only producing some excellent work but turning out students which will in the course of time build up a large and profitable industry for the country. The railway technical schools are supplying all the demands for the railway services.

The authorities are providing two meals a day for the children attending the schools in the poorer villages and those living in hamlets a certain distance from the nearest school. The Government is doing everything possible within its means to ensure that every child in the country is given the possibility to obtain at least a primary education.

There is no populated place in the Kingdom which is not provided with educational facilities, and compulsory school attendance for all children up to 14 years is being enforced.

Miscellaneous News.

Bulgarian Boy Scouts at Jubilee Jamboree.

The Boy Scout movement in Bulgaria started in 1923, and has in this short period made rapid progress. There are 180 troops in Sofia and the larger towns in the Provinces, with 4040 members, 2970 of which are boys troops and the remainder Girl Guide troops. Cubs number 730, and Rovers 40. The Executive Council of the organization have spared neither time, patience nor money, in providing literature on every subject embracing the principals and objects of the movement.

At the great Jamboree at Arrowe Park Liverpool held in July, a small contingent of Bulgarian Scouts, under the command of the Chief Scout in Bulgaria Mr. P. Trianoff participated. On their return Mr. Trianoff in an interview gave the following impression of their visit.

The Bulgarian Boy Scouts had the rare opportunity of participating with 14 scouts and 21 Scouts Masters, four of whom were members of the Executive Council of the Jamboree. The participation of scout organizations from all the various countries gave the Jamboree a most imposing spectacle. The services for transport, camp accommodation and feeding were all done in a very highly efficient manner. The allotment for camps etc., for each unit was also done with careful thought and execution. The brotherhood which had developed so naturally and spontaneously amongst the different nations and races is the best token of the spirit of love and peace which scoutism is continually preaching and sowing the seeds. That which impressed us most was the colossal work done and problems solved quietly behind the scenes by the British Rovers, which it is doubtful could have been done by the Rovers of other countries.

Heavy rainfalls in the country.

The drought accompanied by excessive heat waves which lasted during July and August were broken on the 20th by torrential rains which lasted for some 10 days. In several districts the inundations caused much damage. In the Valley of Tatar Pazardjik district villages were swamped and much damage caused to crops and cattle which were swept down the stream and drowned.

On the 26th August near the town of Radomir in western Bulgaria the sudden torrential rains caused severe damage, complete villages being washed away. A number of lives were lost, and over 1000 animals drowned.

Development of Electricity in Bulgaria.

According to statistics for 1923, 110 cities, towns and villages were provided with electrical installations. 147 electric centrals were constructed with a capacity of 47,528 Kilowatts. Of this number 11 centrals had a capacity of 35,175 Kilowatts, the remainder being small installations mainly for industrial purposes. 21 water power, 6 steam, and 18 Diesel centrals provided 65,286,412 Kwt. hours. Out of this total capacity of the water power driven installations 28.2% only was utilized, Steam 15.5% and Diesel 22.9%.

The 110 cities, towns and villages supplied with electric energy had a population of 800,000 and 80,000 subscribers. Street lighting consumed 22,700,000 Kwt. hours, industrial power 28,400,000 and Sofia tramways 3,700,000 making a total of 55,000,000 Kwt. hrs. The cost of electric energy for lighting purposes was 6 to 12 leva per Kwt. hour, and for industrial power 2 to 6 leva.

Motoring in Bulgaria.

During the last four years motoring, and motor passenger services have developed rapidly. The import of motor vehicles, pleasure cars, taxis and lorries from 1922 to 1927 were as follows

	Number imported
1922	86
1923	101
1924	219
1925	402
1926	415
1927	323

In 1923, over 1000 vehicles were imported.

According to statistics on the 1st January 1927 the number of motor driven vehicles in circulation in the country were 1,380 touring cars, 1,250 for passenger services of different types and 250 lorries or a total of approximately 3,000.

Out of this total about $\frac{1}{3}$ were „Fiat“ vehicles, the remainder being from French, a few German and mostly American factories.

The following figures give the condition etc. of the main trunk roads maintained by the State and the Counties.

State Roads	Kilometres
In good condition	3,670
Fair „	2,290
Bad „	1,280
Under construction	950
	<hr/> 9,190
County Roads	Kilometres
Good condition	4,082
Fair „	1,909
Bad „	820
Under construction	5,227
	<hr/> 12,038

The number of motor passenger services throughout the country on the 1st January this year were 162. This fleet consists of touring chassis converted for carrying 6 to 8 passengers, light lorries for 8 to 12 passengers and baggage. Recently a number of most modern type passenger vehicles have been imported or the body work made locally. As the condition of roads improve these services are gradually increasing. In the large towns in the provinces motors etc. are rapidly replacing horse driven vehicles. In June last there was an average of 19 motor passenger services in each county in the Kingdom. Commencing with the coming spring a number of new services are being organized by private initiative and it is anticipated that 1930 will see the number of services considerably increased.

Mining in Bulgaria.

During the last two years considerable interest has been taken in the mining riches of the country. Technical representatives from England, Italy, Germany and Tchoslovakia have been visiting almost every section of the country and inspecting the various deposits, mainly manganese and lead and silver ores.

It is reported that two foreign groups, Italian and German have completed negotiations with property holders and the development of several properties will commence in the spring of next year.

Financial and Commercial.

Trade and General Conditions — August.

Owing to the seasonal harvesting activity, trade has been rather slack in August. The peasant population were busy bringing home the different crops and, as a rule, does not sell the produce before September 15th. Local markets are, therefore, almost inactive. It is generally expected that, with the opening of the sales of grain, maize, grapes, sunflower seeds, beans, etc., active purchases of manufactured goods will set in towards the end of September.

Weather conditions continued to be favourable and the forecasts for fairly good results of various crops appear to materialise, with the exception perhaps of wheat and rapeseed.

A certain activity in the general situation of trade will most probably be brought about by important orders for railway and building materials ordered by the Railway Administration. Numerous tenders are to be invited during September, October and November. Among other materials, there will be placed important orders for switches, steel bridges, weighing platforms, construction steel shapes etc.

The supply of railway carriages have been awarded to one Czechoslovak and two Italian concerns. Two British firms submitted tenders, but their prices were higher than those of the successful tenders.

An important Contract for a complete Briquette Making Plant for the State Collieries at Pernik was not awarded, as no offers were submitted. The terms of the Contract as established by the Administration of the Collieries, were found difficult to be complied with.

The position of the textile and leather trades are still uneasy owing to difficult sales as a consequence of excessive foreign commitments to be met by local importers: in order to secure funds for their payments, they are underselling one another. An improvement of the situation is expected to set in with the beginning of peasant purchases in September and October.

Foreign trade remains passive. No definite data are available for July and August, but, according to preliminary information, the position did not improve since the end of July.

Railway traffic has considerably increased and the rolling stock available threatens to prove insufficient for the heavy transport of grain, sugar beet and other agricultural products.

Situation of the State Treasury.

Receipts of the State Treasury for June, 1929, show a marked increase as compared with figures for May, 1929, which is due to increased receipts from Direct and Indirect taxes and from Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones. The receipts for July, 1929, however, show a small decrease as compared with June due to decreased receipts from Direct and Indirect taxes. In June ordinary receipts amounted to 620,070,000 leva, and in July to 596,134,000 leva, while in May, they were 448,653,000 leva.

Wholesale Commodity Index Numbers.

The wholesale commodity index number (on the basis of 1914=100) for July 1929, was 3200, as compared with 3245 for June, and 3338 for May 1929, and 2997 for July, 1928. The general level of wholesale prices, therefore, has decreased by 1.40% as against June, 1929, while an increase of 7.1% is shown as compared with July, 1928.

Forthcoming Tenders.

The Ministry of Finance is inviting tenders to take place on October 14th, for the supply of silver coins to a total nominal value of 530,000,000 leva. Offers may be submitted in either Bulgarian, French or English languages. Only State Mints or such other institutions which have manufactured silver coins for either their own government or other governments, since 1920 will be allowed to compete. Such institutions should submit samples, of the various coins which they have struck. Competitors are required to deposit a sum of 400,000 leva with the Bulgarian National Bank and to produce a deposit certificate together with their offers before the Adjudication Commission. This caution must be completed to 5% of the price offered by the successful tender. All expenses incurred in connection with the supply including fiscal taxes and revenue fees will be for the account of the contractor.

Tenders are also invited to take place on the same date for a coinage and supply of an alloy of copper and nickel coins to a total nominal value of 250,000,000 leva. The requirements for these are the same as for the silver coins, except that the amount required as first caution deposit will be 700,000 leva.

Bank Notes in Circulation.

The quantity of notes in circulation from June 15th to August 15th, 1929, show a steady level. On June 15, 1929, the notes in circulation amounted to 3,981,550,000 leva, on June 23, — 3,964,906,000 leva, on June 30, — 3,971,089,000 leva, on July 7, — 4,024,405,000 leva, on July 15, — 4,063,054,000 leva, on July 23, — 3,944,639,000 leva, on July 31, — 3,974,443,000 leva, on August 7, — 4,047,192,000, and on August 15, 1929, — 4,016,043,000 leva.

The foreign exchange reserves of the National Bank also show a steady level during June, July and August 1929. Thus on June 15, foreign exchange amounted to 1,010,339,000 leva, on June 23, — 1,643,123,000 leva, on June 30, — 1,572,683,000 leva, on July 7, — 1,504,392,000 leva, on July 15, — 1,502,630,000 leva, on July 22, — 1,409,109,000 leva, on July 31, — 1,367,329,000, on August 7, — 1,342,231,000 leva and on August 15 1929, — 1,305,680,000 leva.

The assets of the National Bank on June 30, were 1,625,366,685 leva as against 968,407,625 leva for the corresponding date in 1928, and were distributed as follows:

Commerce	389,544,164 leva
Industry	431,543,700 "
Private Bank	60,202,329 "
Total	1,265,266,685 leva

The commercial portfolio of the National Bank was as follows:

On June 15, 1929, —	997,644,000 leva
" " 28, " —	1,007,944,000 "
" " 30, " —	1,020,592,000 "
" July 7, " —	1,012,427,000 "
" " 15, " —	1,006,722,000 "
" " 23, " —	1,005,985,000 "
" " 31, " —	1,002,517,000 "
" Aug. 7, " —	1,010,585,000 "
" " 15, " —	1,002,673,000 "

Import and Export Statistics.

The trade balance during the month of June, is down by 333,119,339 leva, as against 248,199,380 leva for May, and 81,633,285 leva for April, 1929.

Imports during June, totalled 53,485 tons for 807,327,315 leva, and exports amounted to 16,296 tons for 404,307,976 leva, while in May, imports amounted to 50,075 tons for 853,854,165 leva, and exports totalled 22,364 tons for 605,654,025 leva.

The main export items in June, as against those for May, 1929, are:

PRODUCE	1929 June	1928 May
	Tons	Tons
Wheat	—	20
Barley	—	302
Maize	4,795	6,729
Tobacco	1,845	2,369
Eggs	1,231	1,813
Fowls	pieces 84,364	pieces 33,630
Fodder	126	944
Cattle	heads 810	1,053
Oilcake	729	2,462
Ores	425	1,720

The following table analyses the total imports by class of goods, during May, 1929, and the share of England Germany and Italy:

CLASS OF GOODS	Total Imports During May 1929			England		Germany		Italy	
	Unit of weight	Quantity	Leva	Quantity	Leva	Quantity	Leva	Quantity	Leva
Live animals	heads	238	1,090,800	—	—	174	180,500	—	—
Animal foodstuffs	Kgr.	399,963	8,739,600	—	—	67	3,750	15,601	394,300
Cereals, etc	"	2 280,833	17 600,559	4,860	55,600	1,140	23,440	74,539	855,000
Fruits, seeds, vegetables, etc.	"	48,458	2,186,170	—	—	6,479	506,540	1,628	131,720
Groceries	"	299,610	9,438,210	4,416	346,100	9,921	382,130	139,059	2,780,580
Beverages, alcohol and vinegar	"	14	2,370	—	—	13	2,060	—	—
Conserves	"	35,180	1,210,640	223	26,000	215	39,210	206	31,100
Fertilisers	"	87,103	1,707,650	—	—	20,498	778,750	359	134,700
Fuel	"	151,316	217,950	93,390	118,610	—	—	—	—
Chemical products	"	3,518,681	51,994,113	1,681,041	30,422,280	371,229	5,618,707	23,240	525,700
Tannins, colours, etc . . .	"	621,359	17,423,159	11,010	297,200	148,554	6,101,160	35,059	1,354,400
Resins, mineral oils, etc.	"	6,056,805	27,970,714	1,137	34,200	81,973	1,300,187	2,500	88,300
Vegetable oils, fats, wax, and products	"	743,620	22,732,301	75,802	1,950,840	59,351	1,645,330	12,334	429,000
Medicines and drugs . . .	"	19,046	4,428,584	14	1,100	5,380	2,666,723	1,340	68,800
Perfumery	"	1,329	1,021,350	33	53,650	669	455,490	11	10,760
Stone, earth, glassware . .	"	1,145,675	13,541,908	3,065	56,480	222,104	3,452,288	6,369	76,350
Metals and products . . .	"	16,910,875	159,592,573	673,858	11,010,070	2,439,516	39,393,547	15,012	646,880
Wood and products	"	19,068,347	64,337,705	1,627	35,400	28,546	1,939,126	1,366	462,700
Paper and products	"	1,632,755	28,147,912	220	34,630	381,592	6,058,578	17,041	1,060,500
Leather products	"	374,641	40,081,385	10,561	973,600	171,597	15,814,070	21,668	3,280,000
Textiles	"	2,019,813	262,616,717	405,437	57,269,670	166,718	25,023,920	642,930	63,378,020
Rubber and products . . .	"	29,154	6,930,169	2,911	624,000	4,337	1,023,936	2,561	782,660
Railway carriages, automob- iles,	"	30,542	30,955,780	5,140	1,118,100	7,666	3,052,950	2,651	2,286,210
Machines, instruments and apparatus,	"	2,960,035	147,773,564	55,426	3,658,500	1,052,773	55,805,926	80,980	5,421,340
Trinkets and decorations . .	"	4,668	2,607,794	47	35,800	2,022	1,454,580	26	19,300
Literature and art	"	8,842	3,459,022	139	59,730	5,220	1,921,622	372	76,220
Goods not specially men- tioned	"	1,814,284	3,931,723	207	20,988	244,680	1,079,680	425	105,700
Total		60,275,010	931,728,449	3,050,569	108,202,558	5,432,260	175,801,230	1,093,277	8,407,240

Export of Tobacco.

In the month of June 1845 tons of tobacco were exported, as compared with 1732 tons in June 1928, or an increase of 113 tons.

During the first six months of the present year the exports amounted to 13,034 tons, against 14,222 tons for the same period in 1928. The decrease is accounted for due to the fact that the 1927 — 28 crop was below the normal on account of the hot dry season. Also during these years the stocks of tobacco remaining in the country from previous years were sold abroad which decreased the quantity of export during the first six months of 1929.

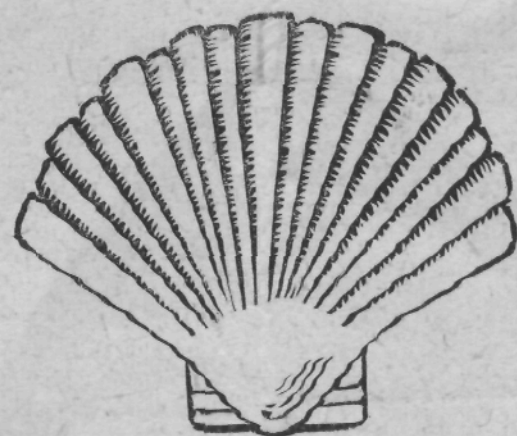
The following table indicates the exports by months during the period under review:

	1929	1928
	(in tons)	
January	2650	4002
February	1503	1930
March	2229	1835
April	2438	2487
May	2369	2236
June	1845	1732
Total .	13034	14222

Germany was the principal buyer in 1928 with 40, 96% followed by Italy, Poland, Belgium, Austria and Czechoslovakia, small quantities being sent to France, Egypt and Turkey.

The Shell Company of Bulgaria Ltd.

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